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Serial No. 10/629,973

Amendment and Response to
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REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-18, rejected claims 19-20, 26 and 27, and objected to claims 23-25 and 28-30 for containing allowable subject matter but being dependent, respectively, on rejected based claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for noting the allowability of claims 1-18.

By this response, Applicants have amended claims 19, 23, and 26. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1-30 will be pending in the present patent application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims in view of the following remarks and foregoing amendments. Particularly, Applicants note that previously indicated allowable and objected to claim 23 has been rewritten into independent form, and claims 24-25 remain dependent upon claim 23.

The Examiner rejected independent claims 19 and 26 under § 102(b) as anticipated by Ahlstone reference (U.S. Patent No. 3,468,559; hereinafter "Ahlstone") or the Haeber reference (U.S. Patent No. 3,543,847; hereinafter "Haeber").

Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 19 and 26 and their respective dependent claims are not anticipated by either of the cited references. Recognition of the feature that resulted in an indicated allowability of claims 23 and 25 should facilitate understanding of why rejected claims 19 and 26, as now amended are also allowable over the two cited references. Both of these references require dropping darts to initially grip or release the grippers, in contrast to recitations of amended claims 19 and 26. As to Ahlstone, the use of a dropped dart to release is described starting at column 10 line 37 and continues to column 11 line 15. Claim 19 is not anticipated by Ahlstone for this reason, as, again, Ahlstone is inoperative without darts. Furthermore, Ahlstone also requires rotation to remove the running tool V—a part of which is the mandrel assembly 72—as noted in column 11 lines 16-25 to clear a pin 64 for exit from a J-slot mechanism 61 or 67 shown in Figure 8. This rotation of the Ahlstone device is also antithetical to the recitations of claim 19.

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Similar to Ahlstone, Haeber also requires dropping a dart to release the grip of the grippers, as indicated in column 5 lines 34-61. Thus, amended claim 19 is not anticipated by this reference either.

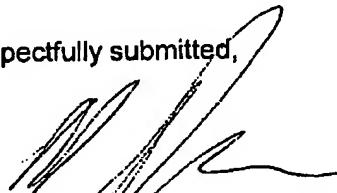
Again, both these references require dropping darts to release. Ahlstone drops a dart to get the dogs 94 to initially grip as explained at the bottom of column 6. The same is true for Haeber as described in column 7 lines 25-55.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 19 and its respective dependent claims 20-22, and amended independent claim 26 and its respective dependent claims 27-30 are patentable and in condition for allowance.

Allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephonic interview will advance the prosecution of the present application, at this or any other time, the Examiner is sincerely invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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